In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 40-51 and 67-68 without prejudice.

1-37 (withdrawn)

38-51 (canceled)

52-62 (withdrawn)

63. (previously presented) In a method of associating auxiliary data with a media signal in a media signal processing system, the system including a media signal recorder, a computer, and an interface for communicating between the recorder and the computer, an improvement comprising automatically steganographically encoding media signal data with digital watermark data upon transfer to the computer; wherein the computer is external to the media signal recorder.

64. (original) The method of claim 63 which includes associating metadata in the recorder with a media signal captured in the recorder, transferring said metadata to the computer with the media signal, and associating said metadata in the computer with the digital watermark.

65. (original) The method of claim 63 in which the digital watermark data permits detection of subsequent media signal alteration.

66. (original) The method of claim 63 in which the encoding is performed by the computer.

67-68 (canceled)

69-71 (withdrawn)